(c) in majority of the cases, this extreme step was resorted to due to personal and family problems like marital discords, medical problems, depression, property issues and also organisational factors.

(d) The measures adopted in this regard include:—

(i) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;

(ii) organizing buddy system and strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;

(iii) Liberalized leave policy to attend to domestic problems;

(iv) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(v) Counselling by Religious Teachers.

(vi) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required.

(vii) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(viii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

(ix) Post Army Medical Corps Junior Commissioned Officers as psychological counsellors who wili interact with the troops and alleviate their stressjelated problems.

The measures are being personally monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized on the above issues.

Discrimination in compensation to soldiers

38. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rehabilitation assistance/compensation paid to a soldier who is maimed or killed during declared war and fight against terrorists/insurgents very;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a demand for bringing about equality in such matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof *$m* Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There is a distinction between casualties in war and those arisingout of border skirmishes and action against militants/terrorists/extremists etc., owing to the different level of risk, the intensity of action involved in each case and also in the interest of the moral of the Armed Forces personnel.

A.comprehensive package has been implemented by the Government to provide help to widows/next of kin of martyred soldiers. As per the extant Government orders, the families of the Armed Forces personnel killed in the performance of their *bonafide* official duties are presently paid *ex-gratia,* lumpsum compensation on the following scales:—

(i) Death occurring due to accidents in course of performance of duties.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(ii) Death occurring in the course of performance of duties, attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements etc.	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(iii) Death occurring during (a) border skirmishes and (b) action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc.	Rs. 7.50 lakhs
(iv) Death occurring during enemy action in inter-national war or war like engagements, which are specifically notified by Ministry of Defence.	Rs.10.00 lakhs,

The widows/next of kin of soldiers killed in situations mentioned under (i) and (ii) above are paid special family pension which is double of the ordinary family pension, and in situations (iii) and (iv) above are paid liberalized family pension, equal to reckonable emoluments last drawn by the deceased soldier at the time of his death. In addition they are .paid benefits of death gratuity, leave encashment, group insurance, etc. as admissible under relevant rules.

A proposal for uniform *ex-gratia* of Rs, 10 lakhs in cases of death in war/ war-like engagements and counter insurgency operations is under consideration of the Government.

Middlemen in defence deals

39. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that middlemen are active in the sale and purchase of defence equipments in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Govemment propose to introduce an 'Integrity Pact' in defence deals involving more than Rs. 100 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 followed for Capital Acquisition allows direct dealing only with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorised Vendors or Government Sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by (OEMs). Further, the procedure *inter-alia* incorporates provisions regarding penalty for use of undue influence by the seller and prohibits engagement of any agent or payment of agency commission by the seller.

All defence procurement pases exceeding Rs. 100 crores also require bidders to sign an integrity pact which provides for an undertaking to avoid all forms of corruption in the process of bidding and for completely free, fair, transparent and unprejudiced dealings prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the contract to be entered into.

The integrity pact binds both the buyer as well as the vendor and also specifies sanctions and penal provisions for any violations of the same.

The sanctions *inter-alia* include calling off negotiations, cancellation of the contract, forfeiture of EMD/SD/Performance Bond, recovery of sums already paid interest thereon and debarment for a minimum period of 5 years.